

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for detecting β -1,3-glucan in the presence of calcium ions, prepared by the method comprising:

(i) collecting a sample comprising a mixture of plasma and hemocyte lysate from *Tenebrio molitor* or *Holotrichia diomphalia*;

(ii) ~~treating~~ purifying said sample by column chromatography with using a solvent or buffer solution containing a sufficient amount of a chelating agent to chelate calcium ions present in said sample to obtain fractions therefrom; and

(iii) selecting fractions exhibiting phenoloxidase activity by β -1,3-glucan in the presence of calcium ions from the obtained fractions.

2. (Previously Presented) A composition for detecting β -1,3-glucan according to claim 1 wherein the composition detects β -1,3-glucan concentrations as low as 20 pg/ml in the presence of calcium ions.

3.-20. (Canceled)

